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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.4)*]

68/212. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011 and 67/210 of 21 December 2012 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

Concerned that human activities have been substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, that these increases enhance the natural greenhouse effect and that this will result on average in an additional warming of the Earth's surface and atmosphere and may adversely affect the natural ecosystem and humankind,

Acknowledging that the developed country parties must take the lead in combating climate change and its adverse effects,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[4] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] the outcomes of the thirteenth to eighteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[5] Resolution 60/1.

Please recycle

on Climate Change and of the third to eighth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[6] the Mauritius Declaration [7] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[8] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[9]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[10]

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and reaffirming also that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

Reaffirming also the financial obligations under the Convention of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II to the Convention and under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[11]

Recognizing the importance of transparency in proceedings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol,

Noting the decision of the parties to the Convention to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, to be held from 30 November to 11 December 2015, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020,

1. *Takes note* of the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] and of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol,[13] hosted by the Government of Qatar in Doha from 26 November to 8 December 2012;

2. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to

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[6] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[8] Ibid., annex II.

[9] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[10] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2303, No. 30822.

[12] FCCC/CP/2012/8 and Add.1–3.

[13] FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1.

rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority;

3. *Recognizes* the need to build on the existing political momentum, with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention and to further advancing climate change negotiations;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Doha from 20 November to 8 December 2012;[14]

5. *Notes* that the parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted decision 1/CMP.8 on the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[15]

6. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Poland of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Warsaw from 11 to 22 November 2013;

7. *Registers its encouragement* to Member States to approach the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw with a view to achieving an ambitious, substantive and balanced outcome, building on the conclusion of the Bali Action Plan [16] and the decisions adopted at Cancun, Mexico, [17] Durban, South Africa,[18] and Doha,[12,13] and to accelerating progress towards the full implementation of those decisions through the ongoing negotiations, including at the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

8. *Takes note* of decision 1/CP.18 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighteenth session,[19] which, together with decisions adopted at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, constitutes the agreed outcome pursuant to its decision 1/CP.13;

9. *Also takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that parties will urgently work towards the deep reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions required to hold the increase in the global average temperature below 2° C above pre-industrial levels and to attain a global peaking of global greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, consistent with science and as documented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on

[14] A/68/260, sect. I.

[15] See FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1.

[16] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1, decision 1/CP.13.

[17] At the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010 (see FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1 and 2).

[18] FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2011/10/Add.1 and 2.

[19] FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.1, decision 1/CP.18.

Climate Change, reaffirming that the time frame for peaking will be longer in developing countries;[19]

10. *Further takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that parties' efforts should be undertaken on the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as the provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing countries in order to support their mitigation and adaptation actions under the Convention, and should take into account the imperatives of equitable access to sustainable development, the survival of countries and the protection of the integrity of Mother Earth;[19]

11. *Takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to extend the work programme on long-term finance for one year, to the end of 2013, with the aim of informing developed country parties in their efforts to identify pathways for mobilizing the scaling-up of climate finance to 100 billion United States dollars per year by 2020 from public, private and alternative sources in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, and informing parties in enhancing their enabling environments and policy frameworks to facilitate the mobilization and effective deployment of climate finance in developing countries;[19]

12. *Notes* the determination of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in its decision 2/CP.18, to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, due to be held from 2 to 13 December 2015, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020;[20]

13. *Takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action will consider elements for a draft negotiating text no later than at its session to be held in conjunction with the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, due to be held from 3 to 14 December 2014, with a view to making a negotiating text available before May 2015; [20]

14. *Also takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to identify and to explore in 2013 options for a range of actions that can close the pre-2020 ambition gap with a view to identifying further activities for its plan of work in 2014, ensuring the greatest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention;[20]

15. *Notes* the recognition by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all parties and its acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, and also notes the acknowledgement by the Conference of the Parties that the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action shall be guided by the principles of the Convention;[20]

[20] Ibid., decision 2/CP.18.

16. *Recognizes* the need to engage a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments and the scientific community, private businesses and civil society and also including youth and persons with disabilities, and that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change;

17. *Takes note with appreciation* of the announcement by the Secretary-General that a Climate Summit would be convened in 2014;

18. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013